

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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EASLEY ANNOUNCES UP TO 75 JOBS AND \$200,000 INVESTMENT IN CALDWELL COUNTY

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Ontario-based Distinctive Designs Furniture Inc., will open an upholstery plant in Granite Falls in the first quarter of 2005, initially employing between 50 and 75 workers and investing \$200,000 in Caldwell County.

“Distinctive Designs will benefit from a labor force with extensive furniture production experience,” said Easley. “Our investments in education, infrastructure and workforce development are paying off and are key to keeping North Carolina competitive in the new global economy.”

The company will partner with Caldwell Community College and the state’s Employment Security Commission to fill its job openings. Distinctive Designs Furniture will invest about \$200,000 to move into an existing 60,000-square-foot building that had previously housed a hosiery manufacturing plant.

“Our business in the U.S. has continued to grow in recent years, so it only makes sense to expand our operations closer to our customers,” said Harold Clark, vice president of sales in the United States. “We are excited to have the opportunity to bring jobs to this area.”

Distinctive Designs Furniture was founded in 1941 in Ontario. Specializing in leather and fabric upholstery, the company now operates three factories in Toronto with total production space of 340,000 square feet. The Granite Falls facility will be its first in the United States.

For more information, visit the company’s Web site at www.distinctivedesignsfurniture.com.

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